

Message

From: Samuel, Donette [Samuel.Donette@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/17/2022 3:52:31 PM
To: Zeno, Denise [Zeno.Denise@epa.gov]; Song, James [Song.James@epa.gov]; Ng, Ricky [Ng.Ricky@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Revised Coney Island Creek SI Report
Attachments: Brooklyn Yarn Dye Co.docx; Coney Island Creek--Leon S. Kaiser Park _ eBird Hotspots _ eBird.pdf; Diver has blast with historic discovery.pdf; Brief History of the Calvert Vaux Park Site.docx

Flag: Follow up

Ex. 5 AC/DP

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:41 PM

To: Zeno, Denise <Zeno.Denise@epa.gov>; Samuel, Donette <Samuel.Donette@epa.gov>

Cc: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Subject: Revised Coney Island Creek SI Report

Hi Ms. Zeno & Ms. Samuel,

Thank you for providing us with the above referenced report.

However, there are several items which I did not see mentioned in it. I don't know if you were unaware of them or if they were not pertinent, but I would like to bring it to your attention,

1) The Brooklyn Yarn & Dye Co, was not mentioned in the report. It was an aniline dye factory that was located on Neptune Ave. between West 21st St. & West 22nd St. It operated through the 1970's. At the end of the day, unused dye was emptied into the Creek and many remember seeing the vividly colored water. After that, a sizable portion of the building was occupied by a public health center operated by Coney Island Hospital. The center had a very large and busy dental practice, among other features. The facility flooded in Hurricane Sandy and whatever was in there, including dental amalgam, likely ended up in the Creek. The facility was so badly contaminated that it was never reopened. A photo of Brooklyn Yarn & Dye is attached and Charlie Denson, the Coney Island historian who I am copying on this email, can provide more info.

2) Fort Lafayette was located on an island in the Narrows and the island became the base of one of the towers of the Verrazano Bridge, But a large portion of the Fort as well as the surrounding material was used to create Calvert Vaux Park on the northern shore of the Creek. It was in use for well over a hundred years and reportedly ships used to unload their munitions there before they proceeded further into the harbor to get to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. As you know, the park is basically uncontrolled fill with a history of illegal dumping. I've attached a portion of a 2008 EA for the park which documents this. If you need the full EA, let me know and I'll send it to you. What is also of note in the EA is that there are freshwater seeps into the Creek from rainwater percolating through the fill. The seeps are mentioned in the EA and I have photos if you need them. The seeps are located on the southern shore of the park.

3) At least one munitions ship overturned in the area and several hundred live UXO were found underwater a few years ago. Documentation is attached. We have always been concerned about the possibility of UXO in the Creek.

4) Although birds are briefly mentioned in the SI, I don't think that you are aware of just how many birds have been documented in Kaiser Park/Coney Island Creek/Calvert Vaux Park. The area is an eBirds hotspot - see attached. A local expert, Alex Wilson, had seen over 165 species there as of 2007 : <http://citybirder.blogspot.com/2007/08/calvert-vauxdreier-offerman-park-info.html> Not only is the area absolutely loaded with birds, but several national rarities, including a Western Reef Heron have been documented there. Here is the list from the Alex Wilson page: <http://www.digitalmediatree.com/arboretum/vauxlist/>

If you need more info or have any questions, let me know, We are looking forward to meeting with you at the February 24th CB 13 meeting.

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)